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Editorial Notes

The solution of sociological problems which the Church can offer is not in training and study but in witness for Christ, in keeping the Lord Jesus ever before the world, in declaring the will of God, in preaching repentance of sin, in showing "the way, the truth, and the life." The gospel alone, in its simplicity and power, will permanently change evil social conditions.

The Church is undoubtedly just now more "under fire" than usual. The fact should arouse Christians to a keener sense of duty and greater devotion and activity. For, after all, the Church is what its people make it. If they adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, there need be no fear of the world's acknowledging its permanency and power.

Is the Laymen's Missionary Movement accomplishing anything? The answer comes from Toronto. Increases in mission contributions are reported as follows: In four Methodist churches: from \$8,000 to \$16,000, from \$7,000 to \$15,000, from \$4,000 to \$13,000, and from \$3,000 to \$5,000. In four Anglican churches \$7,000 to \$15,000; \$5,000 to \$15,000; \$1,000 to \$4,000; \$200 to \$1,000. In three Presbyterian congregations: \$12,000 to \$15,000; \$7,000 to \$12,000; \$6,500 to \$12,500. to \$12,500.

Of course every paper this week will have something to say about the dime novel. One boy in Indiana and one in Kansas, within a fortnight past, has been led

to robbery and murder, confessedly through the reading of these sensational booklets. Of course they ought to be suppressed. The question how to do it? It is a difficult one. The best answer we can give is, let every parent look to the reading in his own household.

But there is another evil in the line of literature that needs watching. Despite all the work of Anthony Comstock and his associates, there is yet an immense amount of impure literature and impure pictures afloat. And it is intensely impure, impure beyond the imagination of any pure minded parent. It is carried to school by possibly one boy in a hundred, but that one boy may show it to twenty. Even our girls are not free from the infection. Teachers of girls' schools have told of things that are shameful. While the parents watch against blood and thunder, they may well watch also against the vicious.

Almost a household word among the officers of our Church is the name of Dr. W. A. Alexander. As the author of the Digest of the acts of our General Assembly, he is known as the most accurate and painstaking of men. By his labors as stated clerk of the General Assembly, he has commended himself to all its members year after year. His labors as professor at the Southwestern Presbyterian University, where he held the chair of Biblical Languages and Literature, have left an impress upon all the students of that institution. The faithfulness and care with which he has discharged every duty will not be forgotten. After our issue of last week was printed, word came to us that the life of this noble man had been suddenly terminated. He was in the railroad depot at Memphis, on his way to the Synod of Mississippi, when the messenger of the Lord called for him. He was spared any long sickness and was taken almost immediately to his Master's presence. He was still a young man, being only fifty-two years old. He was a native of Kosciusko, Miss., and a graduate of the University of Mississippi. Five churches in that State (Lexington, Franklin, Yazoo City, Canton and Madison) enjoyed his services as pastor before he went to the University. The suddenness of his death brings a message to all of us. God sends these sudden calls in order that we may have before us the duty of constant readiness for the Master. Would that every one of us may be ready for the Master as was Dr. Alexander!